

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:00 P.M., January 21, 2020, East Rockaway Jr. / Sr. High School
Preceded by a *Learning Takes on a New Look* Presentation,
Recognition of Gail Beyrer, Recipient of National Teacher Certification,
Stern Essay Contest Winners, Keith Gamache, Education Partner Award,
and a Public Forum

MINUTES

Present: Members of the Board of Education: Keith Gamache, Dominick Vulpis, Neil Schloth, Kristen O'Hagan, Peter McNally, Superintendent Lisa J. Ruiz, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, Jacqueline A. Scio; Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, Mona Hecht; District Clerk, Vitina Fazi

1. The meeting was called to order by Keith Gamache at 7:01 p.m. in the auditorium of the East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School
2. Dominick Vulpis introduced East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School eighth grade student Jordan Lu who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Ruiz welcomed everyone to the meeting. She apologized for the configuration of the auditorium as rehearsals are taking place for the play. Tickets are available for performances on January 31st and February 1st. On tonight's agenda we have the pleasure of recognizing students, staff and Mr. Gamache for special accomplishments.

Ms. Ruiz then introduced Ms. Lisa Burch who will be presenting the winners of the annual Andrew J. Stern Memorial Essay Contest. Mr. Stern, a former graduate of East Rockaway High School, was killed in the terror attack on September 11th. The Stern family continues to honor the memory of Andrew by sponsoring this contest each year. Ms. Burch introduced her family members in attendance: Mrs. Barbara Stern, Mr. Michael Stern, and her niece Emma Stern, Andrew Stern's daughter.

Ms. Burch thanked Ms. Ruiz for allowing this contest to continue year after year. This year's topic was, "*Reflect on how 9/11 affected our country and why it is important for us to remember what happened on that date.*" There were over 700 student entries and the following students were chosen as winners: Ryan Vining (elementary); Everett Gamache (middle school), and Madeleine Prucha, third time winner, (high school). The students read their essays and were presented with awards. Ms. Ruiz thanked the Stern family for this opportunity and presented Mrs. Stern and Ms. Burch with flowers. She also congratulated the winners and thanked the students who participated as well as their teachers and parents for their guidance.

Ms. Ruiz proudly announced that Rhame Avenue School, fourth grade teacher Gail Beyrer,

achieved the National Teacher Certification from the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards. She commended Mrs. Beyrer for voluntarily working on this advanced certification as it required a tremendous amount of time and work. Mrs. Beyrer will share her knowledge of this process with the administrative team so that the District can support teachers who would also be interested in pursuing this certification.

Ms. Ruiz was delighted and proud to announce that Board of Education President Keith Gamache, has been selected as one of 16 Nassau BOCES Education Partner Award honorees. This award recognizes individuals who have made a substantial impact on public education in Nassau County. Mr. Gamache will receive his award at a special gala hosted by Nassau BOCES on March 31, 2020.

Lastly, Ms. Ruiz introduced Assistant Superintendent Mona Hecht. Ms. Hecht spoke about the next presentation, "Learning Takes on a New Look." Ms. Hecht stated that the high school administrative team, Mr. Schaffer, Mr. Zervas, Mr. Gibbons, Mr. Krauz and teacher Mr. Tesoriero, were going to speak about the District's new "Techbooks." Ms. Hecht was excited to share information about these learning opportunities in our school. The new Techbooks are available for Grades 6-12. A PowerPoint was shown. Mr. Schaffer stated that the Discovery Education Techbooks replaces traditional textbooks. These Techbooks are all on line. Mr. Zervas spoke about a student's experience in a 7th grade math lesson. Mr. Gibbons spoke about the benefits of planning lessons for teachers. Mr. Tesoriero spoke about how Techbooks benefit him as a seventh-grade social studies teacher. Mr. Krauz spoke about how the Techbooks are an all-inclusive platform and an incredible resource for students to have access to every single level of science from Grades K-12. Mr. Schaffer then went on to speak about the next steps and how they are moving forward. He said much more is to come and expects the program to grow exponentially. A short student film showcasing students' experiences with Techbooks in a social studies class was then shown. Questions were asked and answered. Ms. Ruiz thanked Ms. Hecht and the high school team who brought this to life and demonstrated the value Techbooks has for our students.

At 8:10 p.m. the presentations concluded. The Board continued with the public portion of the agenda.

3. Public Comments on Agenda Items - None

4. Approval of Minutes:

Upon motion made by Peter McNally, seconded by Neil Schloth, and unanimously passed, the following minutes were approved:

A. December 17, 2019, Meeting of the Board of Education

5. Acknowledgment of Monthly Reports and Correspondence

A. Receipt of Monthly Financial Reports: November 2019

B. Correspondence – One (1)

6. Recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools

Upon motion made by Kristen O'Hagan, seconded by Dominick Vulpis, and unanimously passed, the following Items A through D, were approved on a consent agenda.

- A. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the following resignation:
 - 1. Teresa LaForgia, substitute teacher, effective December 22, 2019
- B. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Dr. Ayesha McArthur to the position of Dignity Act Coordinator for the 2019-2020 school year.
- C. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the revised club advisor assignments for the 2019-2020 school year as more fully set forth on the schedule of club/advisor assignments at the stipend salaries established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2019-2020 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the charters.
- D. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following temporary assignments at the salary approved by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for substitute workers:
 - 1. Dana Stuono, temporary teaching assistant, effective December 18, 2019, through June 30, 2020
 - 2. Melissa Sheremeta, substitute typist-clerk, effective upon Civil Service approval
 - 3. Lisa Marie Coscia, day/evening supervisor, effective January 22, 2020

7. Other Items

Upon motion made by Neil Schloth, seconded by Peter McNally, and unanimously passed, the following Items A through K, were approved on a consent agenda.

- A. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District approves the terms of a Side Letter Agreement dated January 21, 2020 regarding the Jr. High Intramural Program Coordinator in the teachers' bargaining unit.

- B. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District hereby appoints Arthur Riegel, Esq., to serve as hearing officer with respect to disciplinary charges brought against the employee named in Confidential Attachment "A" pursuant to Civil Service Law '75.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the employee named in Attachment “A” be suspended without pay for a period of thirty days following service of the disciplinary charges on the employee, pending hearing and determination of said charges.

- C. Approve the following resolution:

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION RELATED SERVICES

WHEREAS, a number of public school districts in Nassau County wish to jointly solicit proposals for Special Education Related Services to commence in the 2020-2021 school year in accordance with the applicable provisions of General Municipal Law;

WHEREAS, the East Rockaway School District desires to participate with these school districts for the joint solicitation of proposals for Special Education Related Services as authorized by General Municipal Law Section 119-o, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the attached Inter-Municipal Cooperative Agreement (“IMA”) among the participating school districts; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has determined that it would be in its best financial interest to solicit proposals for Special Education Related Services on a cooperative basis;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the School District to participate with other Nassau County public school districts for the solicitation of proposals for Special Education Related Services on a cooperative basis, subject to the terms and conditions of the IMA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby accepts and approves the appointment of Roslyn Union Free School District as the Lead Participant for purposes of facilitating and coordinating the solicitation of proposals in accordance with the IMA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves the attached IMA and authorizes the Board President to execute the IMA on behalf of the Board of Education.

- D. Approve the Contract for Consultant Services between the East Rockaway UFSD and FBA of Syosset, dated January 21, 2020, for services on behalf of the District’s Flexible Spending Plan, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- E. Approve the Contract for Consultant Services between the East Rockaway UFSD and Electrify Your Strings, Inc., for an orchestral student workshop on March 2, 2020, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract

on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

- F. Approve the Agreement between the East Rockaway UFSD and Heartland School Solutions dated January 21, 2020, for use of the Mosaic Point of Sale System for the 2019-20 school year and authorize the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- G. Approve the Agreement between the East Rockaway UFSD and School Aid Specialists for state aid reporting for the 2019-2020 school year and authorize the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- H. Approve the terms of the Letter of Intent dated December 13, 2019, with Nassau BOCES for a 48-month lease for five (5) Xerox multi-task copy machines and authorize the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations to execute the Letter of Intent on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- I. Approve the terms of the Consultant Services Contract between the East Rockaway UFSD and Carol Nivens, R.N. and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- J. Approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the Nassau County Board of Elections for use of the optical scan voting systems on May 19, 2020 and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the Memorandum of Agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

K. Approve the revised 2019-2020 Board Meeting Schedule.

8. Upon motion made by Kristen O’Hagan, and seconded by Peter McNally, the CSE and CPSE Recommendations were unanimously approved.

9. Budget Transfers

Upon motion made by Dominick Vulpis and seconded by Neil Schloth, the following budget transfers were unanimously approved:

A. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following budget transfers:

- 1. Transaction No. 20-0010
- 2. Transaction No. 20-0011

10. Policy Matters

A. Policy Subcommittee Report

Mr. McNally stated that the Committee met on January 14, 2020, and reviewed six policies, all of which are listed below as policies to be adopted:

4719 Grading Systems

This policy was recommended for review by NYSSBA. Changes reflect audit reports and recommendations of the Office of the State Comptroller, which indicated some grading systems may have weaknesses which jeopardize the integrity of students' grades and increased the risk grades can be inappropriately modified. We worked on this policy in June 2019 and the new policy subcommittee reviewed and approved the revisions.

4750 Promotion and Retention of Students

This policy was recommended for review by NYSSBA to incorporate with new law that requires districts to notify parents of its policy on promotion, including how its policy was developed, by posting the policy on its website and/or distributing it as part of an existing informational document that is provided to parents/guardians.

6150 - Budget Transfers

This policy was reviewed, and it was determined no changes were needed.

6700 – Purchasing

This policy was revised to reference purchasing exhibit 6700-E in the body of the policy. This exhibit outlines the methods of competition to be used for procurements.

6741 - Contracting for Professional Services

This policy was updated to revise the Request for Proposal requirement from every 3 years to every 5 years. In addition, the policy was revised to extend authorization to the superintendent's designee to review and make recommendations for proposal awards to the Board of Education.

8334 - Use of District credit Cards

This policy was revised to update the district title to Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations. In addition, the chart was updated to exclude the reference to credit cards the District no longer uses and include the appropriate titles of those authorized to use specific district credit cards

Mr. Gamache asked for a vote of adoption for the policies listed in Item B below. By a unanimous vote the policies in Item B (1-6) were approved for adoption.

B. For Adoption

1. 4710, Grading
2. 4750, Promotion and Retention of Students
3. 6150, Budget Transfers
4. 6700, Purchasing
5. 6741, Contracting for Professional Services

6. 8334, Use of District Credit Cards

C. For Review

1. 4531, Field Trip and Excursions
2. 1741, Home-Schooled Students
3. 5420, Student Health Services
4. 8121.1-R, Opioid Overdose Prevention Regulation
5. 8130.1, Extreme Risk Protection Orders (The “Red flag Law”) “New” “Notice”
6. 9150, Non-Fraternization “New”

11. Reports

A. Board President’s Report

District Website: The district website has been updated as part of on-going efforts to improve and maintain good communication. The location of some information may have changed and there may be some issues as all documents are still being migrated over to the new design. If you are having difficulty finding the information you need, please contact your child's school.

Junior/Senior HS Course and Program changes: Mr. Schaffer presented exciting new courses and some name changes to existing courses in response to the changing needs of our students. New courses in statistics and pre-calculus will provide students the opportunity to receive college credits through Farmingdale's University in the High School Program as well as the new Syracuse University Project Advance (SUPA) course, The Development of Children. A new geometry foundations course will increase the opportunity for more students to graduate with an Advanced Regents diploma by providing additional instruction geared toward successfully passing the Geometry Regents test. New electives in Culinary Arts and Nutrition and Multimedia Technology will also expand offerings to our students beyond the core subject areas that are also online with potential, future career interests. These changes which were shared at the recent Curriculum Fair Night, are available on the website. Please contact your child's counselor with any questions related to your child's future course plans.

Budget Work Session: Mrs. Scrio provided an overview of the budget process including a review of last year's significant capital and technology projects during our first budget presentation. She shared some initial figures important for the development of the annual budget including the CPI, which will be 1.8%. She explained the five factors relating to the Tax Levy Cap calculation. We currently know three out of the five factors and still wait to hear regarding the PILOT and Building Aid amounts. She also reported good news that our bond rating was

upgraded in 2017. Our next budget work session is February 4, 2020, where Ms. Scio will report on "the Governor's proposal, capital projects and technology reserve propositions."

Athletic teams: Program offerings are reviewed as part of each budget season including our athletic program. A few years ago, we joined with Rockville Centre School District to provide wrestling for our students. The number of participants has declined, so we will be closely monitoring the feasibility of continuing that program along with the possibility of expanding into other sports, especially during our winter season. Some possibilities include swimming, bowling, and golf. Challenges we face include finding neighboring districts to partner with, as due to our size, we typically don't have enough students to put together full teams of our own as well as transportation. The high cost of bussing is something we are looking at very carefully as part of our overall budget as well.

B. Superintendent's Report

Achievement

The Reading Committee is hard at work this year looking to select a new reading program for Grades K-6 for the 2020-2021 school year. Once a decision has been made, professional development opportunities will begin this spring to better prepare the teachers for a smooth implementation next school year. Many thanks to our elementary teachers who worked so hard to adopt new programs we have brought in. Also thank you to Ms. Hecht and the Committee for working so hard to select the best program.

Sixty-one students were recognized at the January PTA meeting for achieving Student of the Month in two or more subject areas during the months of October and November. In addition, 60 students were invited to receive WE ROCK Awards. Awards recognized students for various character traits, including wisdom, empathy, respect, optimism, compassion and kindness.

The anatomy and physiology classes at East Rockaway High School had a first-hand experience dissecting pig hearts. Led by Mr. Louis Duet, the purpose of the activity was to visualize the common cardiac anatomy shared among mammals.

Art student, Kat Melissinos, had her photograph, "Morning Sunshine", accepted into the Drexel University high school photo contest.

Innovation

STEAM classes are completing their Robotics unit at Centre Avenue. Students

collaborated in teams to build Lego robots and then programmed them to complete specific tasks, such as travel towards a disco ball and then turn in one direction and then turn in the opposite direction. STEAM will move to Rhame in the coming weeks.

As part of the science department's regular Professional Learning Community (PLC), physics teacher Bryan Palermo led the science teachers through a Breakout EDU Portable Escape Room experience. This experience is an engaging way to teach a variety of concepts.

The use of Instagram is growing at the Jr/Sr High School. Teachers across departments are using Instagram to showcase the engaging activities that are going on in their classrooms. This includes our Family and Consumer Science teacher, Ms. Pisano, our high school art teachers, our high school music department, Mr. Crowley, science teacher and Ms. Kenny, social studies teacher.

Students in Ms. Falvo's AP Language class used Flipgrid to create videos in which they demonstrated tone. Students were able to view each other's videos, evaluate their effectiveness and provide feedback to each other.

Opportunity

Students in both elementary schools and our high school have been working hard to prepare for the upcoming musical *The Wizard of Oz*. They are excited for the opportunity to perform at the end of the month with students from the Junior and Senior High School.

Regents review academies in Algebra, Geometry, Algebra II, ELA, Living Environment, Global and US History have been offered for all students identified as in need to take a January Regents exam, whether to fulfill any graduation requirement or remain on track for an Advanced Regents Diploma.

All students in high school Italian and many of our high school English Language Learners had the opportunity to see a full dress rehearsal of *La Traviata* at The Met.

On January 15th, East Rockaway High School hosted its annual Curriculum Fair where families had the opportunity to learn about all the course options available to students and meet with teachers and students in those classes and extracurricular activities. We have an interesting array of opportunities planned for next year including expanded family and consumer science offerings, and two new concurrent enrollment classes.

On December 20th, 2019, AP Art took a field trip to New York City to the Zero Space interactive exhibit. The students had a unique experience, being able to spend the day "within" the artwork.

Students in Human Development class took a trip to the Long Island Children's Museum on Friday, January 17th, 2020. Students were given a tour of the museum, with a specific focus on how the psychological, physical, social and emotional development of children was taken into account when the museum was curated.

Connection

Students from the Kiwanis Kids Club and Student Council from both elementary schools visited Nassau University Medical Center in late December. The club advisors and the students brought gifts for children and sang carols for the patients at the hospital. They visited the pediatric and geriatric rehabilitation floors. Students commented how good it felt to bring some cheer to patients during the holidays.

Our wrestling team participated in the *Take Down Drugs* match presented by the Friends of Long Island Wrestling. All athletes and coaches signed a pledge to be drug free.

Our winter athletic teams participated in the Gregg's Wings Foundation Toy Drive, in which each player on our winter teams donated a toy for children at NYU Winthrop's Cancer Center for Kids.

On December 21, 2019, we hosted our annual Basketball Friendship games with Lynbrook High School. The game was done in conjunction with the Gregg's Wings Toy Drive and included donations from Lynbrook High School teams as well.

On December 27, 2019, members of the East Rockaway Senior National honor society volunteered their talent and time at the 42nd annual holiday party for children in foster care. The event, sponsored by the Nassau County Department of Social Services, took place at the Long Island Marriott Hotel and Conference Center. The students ran a craft table for the children and represented East Rockaway proudly.

The Maurer Breast Cancer Foundation came in to speak with our high school health classes about the importance of early detection and provide them with techniques to check for breast cancer for both men and women.

This evening the Board of Education approved a contract with Electrify Your Strings, Inc., an orchestral student workshop. The individual that runs this workshop is one of the original founders of the Trans-Siberian Orchestra. This workshop was made possible through a grant funded by the East Rockaway Education Foundation. The students and staff are very excited as this is an amazing opportunity for our string students. Many thanks to the Education Foundation for their continued support.

Many thanks to board members Peter McNally and Kristen O'Hagan for their work on the Policy Committee. They have done an excellent job in getting through the policies which is not an exciting task.

Mr. Gamache added that these meeting are not the only public meetings. Work sessions are also public meetings and encouraged the audience to attend work sessions which are also informative and productive.

12. Good and Welfare

- A. Condolences to Sara Perrone and family on the passing of her grandmother, Barbara Wines on December 26, 2019
- B. Condolences to Richard Schaffer and family on the passing of his grandfather, Anthony Volpe, on December 26, 2019
- C. Condolences to Antoinette English and family on the passing of her father, Giovanni LaSala, on January 6, 2020
- D. Condolences to Angela Bond and family on the passing of her mother, Mary Wickes, on January 13, 2020
- E. Condolences to Jeanne Paige and family on the passing of her grandmother, Anne Carroll

13. Public Comments – None

14. Board Member Comments

Kristen O'Hagan: Mrs. O'Hagan congratulated Mrs. Beyrer on achieving National Teacher Certification. It is quite an accomplishment which required many hours of hard work and dedication. Mrs. Beyrer is not only a teacher, but a mother of three, and president of the ERTA. It is a huge accomplishment and not easily achieved. Congratulations to Mr. Gamache on earning the Nassau BOCES Education Partner Award. Mrs. O'Hagan also congratulated all the Andrew Stern Essay Contest winners. She thanked Ms. Hecht and the high school team for tonight's curriculum presentation. Even though we are a small district, we continue to offer additional opportunities for our students and she looks forward to what will be offered in the future. She wished all the participants in *The Wizard of Oz* good luck on their performances. Mrs. O'Hagan thanked everyone for coming out this evening.

Peter McNally: Mr. McNally congratulated all the students who wrote essays, especially tonight's three winners. He enjoyed listening to them. He also congratulated the Gamache family. It is a proud night for the Gamache family with son Everett chosen as the middle school winner of the Stern essay contest, and Keith Gamache, the recipient of the Nassau BOCES Education Partner Award. It's also a proud month for the Beyrer family. Congratulations to Gail Beyrer on a very well-deserved recognition and to Mr. Beyrer for coaching the Lynbrook girls' cross-country team who won its first county championship in

program history. Mr. McNally enjoyed tonight's curriculum presentation and thanked all the staff members who participated in the presentation.

Dominick Vulpis: Mr. Vulpis "dittoed" his fellow board members' comments. He congratulated Gail Beyrer and stated that with having a dad such as Dr. Meagher, who sets the bar extremely high, it's no wonder that she has accomplished this prestigious recognition. He thanked Gail for all her contributions to the school not only as a teacher, but in her new position as ERTA president. He thanked everyone for attending tonight.

Neil Schloth: Mr. Schloth also agreed with the comments of his fellow board members. One of the things he has come to admire with teachers is their dedication, particularly when they go above and beyond and pursue additional successes. The extraordinary achievement accomplished by Gail Beyrer sets the bar for the rest of our teachers. He thanked Mr. Gamache on his prestigious award. Mr. Gamache speaks up on complicated matters and is deserving of the award. Mr. Gamache has made a tangible difference in what he has accomplished. Mr. Schloth reported on the last Safety Committee meeting where recently new stakeholders, as well as the fire chief and the District's security consulting firm, were present. They discussed new initiatives to be pursued. He will continue to update the community. Mr. Schloth thanked everyone for attending tonight.

Keith Gamache: Mr. Gamache congratulated Gail Beyrer on her tremendous achievement and applauded her. As a teacher himself, he is aware of the vigorous undertaking it is to get this certification. The BOCES Education Partner award is very special to him. Rockville Centre Schools' Superintendent Bill Johnson and Carol Burris, former principal of South Side High School, also Rockville Centre, inspired him to run for the school board and that is why he chose to get involved in the way he did. His commitment to equity in excellence informed his thought process. He couldn't be a successful board member without the support and hard work of his trustees, the superintendent, administrators, and the entire staff who work with our children on a daily basis. He sincerely thanked them all for their support

15. Upon motion made by Kristen O'Hagan, seconded by Neil Schloth, and passed unanimously, the public meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. Mr. Gamache announced that the Board will now reconvene into executive session to discuss the Superintendent's mid-year evaluation.

Respectfully submitted,

Vitina Fazi
District Clerk